

1979

## State Humanities Committees (1979-1982): Correspondence 13

Richard Lewis

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JUL 20 1979

# OREGON COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES

Richard Lewis, Director  
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July 17, 1979

Steve Weiland, Executive Director  
Federation of Public Programs in the Humanities  
15 South Fifth Street - Suite 720  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Dear Steve:

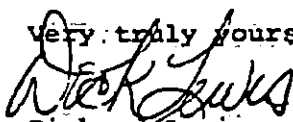
This is in reply to Betsy's request for information about legal difficulties we in Oregon might have if Pell's reauthorization amendment were to become law. There is no legal or constitutional prohibition against establishing a new agency here. However, there are some difficulties that should be mentioned.

The Oregon legislature meets every two years. Since the creation of a new agency would require action by the full legislature, and since the legislature won't meet again until the spring of 1981, no state humanities agency could even be proposed for establishment until then. Moreover, there are problems associated with the establishment of such an agency, such as its relation to the Oregon Arts Commission and the likelihood of its seeking future state funding. These sorts of problems mean that creating such an agency would most likely bring it under the normal time requirement for legislation that creates a new agency: it will require two legislative sessions to have final approval. Thus, the most reasonable expectation is that such an agency could not exist in Oregon before 1983.

Pell's amendment requires that the state designate or provide for a state agency in order to qualify for funding. In Oregon that means that in all likelihood no state program would exist during 1981 and 1982. And 1983, given the time involved in the process of gubernatorial appointment and then the submission of a proposal to the Endowment.

This, of course, assumes that the Oregon legislature would be willing to have Washington, D. C. designate what new agency it must create, which is by no means certain.

Very truly yours,

  
Richard Lewis  
Director

RL:hn